

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

RURAL STEM EDUCATION RESEARCH ACT

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 210) to coordinate Federal research and development efforts focused on STEM education and workforce development in rural areas, including the development and application of new technologies to support and improve rural STEM education, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 210

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Rural STEM Education Research Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The supply of STEM workers is not keeping pace with the rapidly evolving needs of the public and private sector, resulting in a deficit often referred to as a STEM skills shortage.

(2) According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the United States will need one million additional STEM professionals than it is on track to produce in the coming decade.

(3) Many STEM occupations offer higher wages, more opportunities for advancement, and a higher degree of job security than non-STEM jobs.

(4) The 60,000,000 individuals in the United States who live in rural settings are significantly under-represented in STEM.

(5) According to the National Center for Education Statistics, nine million students in the United States—nearly 20 percent of the total K–12 population—attend rural schools, and for reasons ranging from teacher quality to shortages of resources, these students often have fewer opportunities for high-quality STEM learning than their peers in the Nation’s urban and suburban schools.

(6) Rural areas represent one of the most promising, yet underutilized, opportunities for STEM education to impact workforce development and regional innovation, including agriculture.

(7) The study of agriculture, food, and natural resources involves biology, engineering, physics, chemistry, math, geology, computer science, and other scientific fields.

(8) Employment in computer and information technology occupations is projected to grow 11 percent from 2019 to 2029. To help meet this demand, it is important rural students have the opportunity to acquire computing skills through exposure to computer science learning in grades Pre-K through 12 and in informal learning settings.

(9) More than 293,000,000 individuals in the United States use high-speed broadband to work, learn, access healthcare, and operate their businesses, while 19,000,000 individuals

in the United States still lack access to high-speed broadband. Rural areas are hardest hit, with over 26 percent of individuals in rural areas in the United States lacking access to high-speed broadband compared to 1.7 percent of individuals in urban areas in the United States.

SEC. 3. NIST ENGAGEMENT WITH RURAL COMMUNITIES.

(a) MEP OUTREACH.—Section 25 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (6), by striking “community colleges and area career and technical education schools” and inserting the following: “secondary schools (as defined in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)), community colleges, and area career and technical education schools, including those in underserved and rural communities;” and

(B) in paragraph (7)—

(i) by striking “and local colleges” and inserting the following: “local high schools and local colleges, including those in underserved and rural communities;” and

(ii) by inserting “or other applied learning opportunities” after “apprenticeships”; and

(2) in subsection (d)(3) by striking “, community colleges, and area career and technical education schools,” and inserting the following: “and local high schools, community colleges, and area career and technical education schools, including those in underserved and rural communities.”

(b) RURAL CONNECTIVITY PRIZE COMPETITION.—

(1) PRIZE COMPETITION.—Pursuant to section 24 of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3719), the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology (referred to in this subsection as the “Secretary”), shall, subject to appropriations, carry out a program to award prizes competitively to stimulate research and development of creative technologies in order to deploy affordable and reliable broadband connectivity to underserved rural communities.

(2) PLAN FOR DEPLOYMENT IN RURAL COMMUNITIES.—Each proposal submitted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include a plan for deployment of the technology that is the subject of such proposal in an underserved rural community.

(3) PRIZE AMOUNT.—In carrying out the program under paragraph (1), the Secretary may award not more than a total of \$5,000,000 to one or more winners of the prize competition.

(4) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date on which a prize is awarded under the prize competition, the Secretary shall submit to the relevant committees of Congress a report that describes the winning proposal of the prize competition.

(5) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the program under subsection (a), the Secretary may consult with the heads of relevant departments and agencies of the Federal Government.

SEC. 4. NITR-D BROADBAND WORKING GROUP.

Title I of the High-Performance Computing Act of 1991 (15 U.S.C. 5511 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 103. BROADBAND RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish a broadband research and development working group to address national research challenges and opportunities for improving broadband access and adoption across the United States.

“(b) ACTIVITIES.—The working group shall identify and coordinate key research prior-

ities for addressing broadband access and adoption, including—

“(1) promising research areas;

“(2) requirements for data collection and sharing;

“(3) opportunities for better alignment and coordination across Federal agencies and external stakeholders; and

“(4) input on the development of new Federal policies and programs to enhance data collection and research.

“(c) COORDINATION.—The working group shall coordinate, as appropriate, with the Rural Broadband Integration Working Group established under section 6214 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334) and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture of the Department of Agriculture.

“(d) REPORT.—The working group shall report to Congress on their activities as part of the annual report submitted under section 101(a)(2)(D).

“(e) SUNSET.—The authority to carry out this section shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of the Rural STEM Education Act.”

SEC. 5. NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES EVALUATION.

(a) STUDY.—Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences under which the National Academy agrees to conduct an evaluation and assessment that—

(1) evaluates the quality and quantity of current Federal programming and research directed at examining STEM education for students in grades Pre-K through 12 and workforce development in rural areas;

(2) assesses the impact of the scarcity of broadband connectivity in rural communities has on STEM and technical literacy for students in grades Pre-K through 12 in rural areas;

(3) assesses the core research and data needed to understand the challenges rural areas are facing in providing quality STEM education and workforce development; and

(4) makes recommendations for action at the Federal, State, and local levels for improving STEM education for students in grades Pre-K through 12 and workforce development in rural areas.

(b) REPORT TO DIRECTOR.—The agreement entered into under subsection (a) shall require the National Academy of Sciences, not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this Act, to submit to the Director a report on the study conducted under such subsection, including the National Academy’s findings and recommendations.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Director to carry out this section \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2022.

SEC. 6. GAO REVIEW.

Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the engagement of rural populations in Federal STEM programs and submit to Congress a report that includes—

(1) an assessment of how Federal STEM education programs are serving rural populations;

(2) a description of initiatives carried out by Federal agencies that are targeted at supporting STEM education in rural areas;

(3) an assessment of what is known about the impact and effectiveness of Federal investments in STEM education programs that are targeted to rural areas; and

(4) an assessment of challenges that state and Federal STEM education programs face in reaching rural population centers.

SEC. 7. CAPACITY BUILDING THROUGH EPSCOR.

Section 517(f)(2) of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 1862p-9(f)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at the end; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) to increase the capacity of rural communities to provide quality STEM education and STEM workforce development programming to students, and teachers; and”.

SEC. 8. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION RURAL STEM RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.

(A) PREPARING RURAL STEM EDUCATORS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall provide grants on a merit-reviewed, competitive basis to institutions of higher education or nonprofit organizations (or a consortium thereof) for research and development to advance innovative approaches to support and sustain high-quality STEM teaching in rural schools.

(2) USE OF FUNDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Grants awarded under this section shall be used for the research and development activities referred to in paragraph (1), which may include—

(i) engaging rural educators of students in grades Pre-K through 12 in professional learning opportunities to enhance STEM knowledge, including computer science, and develop best practices;

(ii) supporting research on effective STEM teaching practices in rural settings, including the use of rubrics and mastery-based grading practices to assess student performance when employing the transdisciplinary teaching approach for STEM disciplines;

(iii) designing and developing pre-service and in-service training resources to assist such rural educators in adopting transdisciplinary teaching practices across STEM courses;

(iv) coordinating with local partners to adapt STEM teaching practices to leverage local natural and community assets in order to support in-place learning in rural areas;

(v) providing hands-on training and research opportunities for rural educators described in clause (i) at Federal Laboratories, institutions of higher education, or in industry;

(vi) developing training and best practices for educators who teach multiple grade levels within a STEM discipline;

(vii) designing and implementing professional development courses and experiences, including mentoring, for rural educators described in clause (i) that combine face-to-face and online experiences; and

(viii) any other activity the Director determines will accomplish the goals of this subsection.

(B) RURAL STEM COLLABORATIVE.—The Director may establish a pilot program of regional cohorts in rural areas that will provide peer support, mentoring, and hands-on research experiences for rural STEM educators of students in grades Pre-K through 12, in order to build an ecosystem of cooperation among educators, researchers, academia, and local industry.

(b) BROADENING PARTICIPATION OF RURAL STUDENTS IN STEM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall provide grants on a merit-reviewed, competitive basis to institutions of higher education or nonprofit organizations (or a consortium thereof) for—

(A) research and development of programming to identify the barriers rural students face in accessing high-quality STEM education; and

(B) development of innovative solutions to improve the participation and advancement of rural students in grades Pre-K through 12 in STEM studies.

(2) USE OF FUNDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Grants awarded under this section shall be used for the research and development activities referred to in paragraph (1), which may include—

(i) developing partnerships with community colleges to offer advanced STEM course work, including computer science, to rural high school students;

(ii) supporting research on effective STEM practices in rural settings;

(iii) implementing a school-wide STEM approach;

(iv) improving the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technology Education program's coordination and engagement with rural communities;

(v) collaborating with existing community partners and networks, such as the cooperative research and extension services of the Department of Agriculture and youth serving organizations like 4-H, after school STEM programs, and summer STEM programs, to leverage community resources and develop place-based programming;

(vi) connecting rural school districts and institutions of higher education, to improve precollegiate STEM education and engagement;

(vii) supporting partnerships that offer hands-on inquiry-based science activities, including coding, and access to lab resources for students studying STEM in grades Pre-K through 12 in a rural area;

(viii) evaluating the role of broadband connectivity and its associated impact on the STEM and technology literacy of rural students;

(ix) building capacity to support extracurricular STEM programs in rural schools, including mentor-led engagement programs, STEM programs held during nonschool hours, STEM networks, makerspaces, coding activities, and competitions; and

(x) any other activity the Director determines will accomplish the goals of this subsection.

(c) APPLICATION.—An applicant seeking a grant under subsection (a) or (b) shall submit an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Director may require. The application may include the following:

(1) A description of the target population to be served by the research activity or activities for which such grant is sought.

(2) A description of the process for recruitment and selection of students, educators, or schools from rural areas to participate in such activity or activities.

(3) A description of how such activity or activities may inform efforts to promote the engagement and achievement of rural students in grades Pre-K through 12 in STEM studies.

(4) In the case of a proposal consisting of a partnership or partnerships with one or more rural schools and one or more researchers, a plan for establishing a sustained partnership that is jointly developed and managed, draws from the capacities of each partner, and is mutually beneficial.

(d) PARTNERSHIPS.—In awarding grants under subsection (a) or (b), the Director shall—

(1) encourage applicants which, for the purpose of the activity or activities funded through the grant, include or partner with a nonprofit organization or an institution of higher education (or a consortium thereof) that has extensive experience and expertise in increasing the participation of rural students in grades Pre-K through 12 in STEM;

(2) encourage applicants which, for the purpose of the activity or activities funded through the grant, include or partner with a consortium of rural schools or rural school districts; and

(3) encourage applications which, for the purpose of the activity or activities funded through the grant, include commitments from school principals and administrators to making reforms and activities proposed by the applicant a priority.

(e) EVALUATIONS.—All proposals for grants under subsections (a) and (b) shall include an evaluation plan that includes the use of outcome oriented measures to assess the impact and efficacy of the grant. Each recipient of a grant under this section shall include results from these evaluative activities in annual and final projects.

(f) ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISSEMINATION.—

(1) EVALUATION REQUIRED.—The Director shall evaluate the portfolio of grants awarded under subsections (a) and (b). Such evaluation shall—

(A) use a common set of benchmarks and tools to assess the results of research conducted under such grants and identify best practices; and

(B) to the extent practicable, integrate the findings of research resulting from the activity or activities funded through such grants with the findings of other research on rural student's pursuit of degrees or careers in STEM.

(2) REPORT ON EVALUATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the completion of the evaluation under paragraph (1), the Director shall submit to Congress and make widely available to the public a report that includes—

(A) the results of the evaluation; and

(B) any recommendations for administrative and legislative action that could optimize the effectiveness of the grants awarded under this section.

(g) REPORT BY COMMITTEE ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As part of the first report required by section 36(e) of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885c(e)) transmitted to Congress after the date of enactment of this Act, the Committee on Equal Opportunities in Science and Engineering shall include—

(A) a description of past and present policies and activities of the Foundation to encourage full participation of students in rural communities in science, mathematics, engineering, and computer science fields; and

(B) an assessment of trends in participation of rural students in grades Pre-K through 12 in Foundation activities, and an assessment of the policies and activities of the Foundation, along with proposals for new strategies or the broadening of existing successful strategies towards facilitating the goals of this Act.

(2) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 313 of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (Public Law 114-329) is amended by striking “Section 204(e) of the National Science Foundation Authorization Act of 1988” and inserting “Section 36(e) of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act”.

(B) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect as if included in the enactment of section 313 of the American Innovation and Competitiveness Act (Public Law 114-329).

(h) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this section, the Director shall, for purposes of enhancing program effectiveness and avoiding duplication of activities, consult, cooperate, and coordinate with the programs and policies of other relevant Federal agencies.

(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Director—

(1) \$8,000,000 to carry out the activities under subsection (a) for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026; and

(2) \$12,000,000 to carry out the activities under subsection (b) for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

SEC. 9. RESEARCHING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ON-LINE EDUCATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall, subject to appropriations, award competitive grants to institutions of higher education or nonprofit organizations (or a consortium thereof, which may include a private sector partner) to conduct research on online STEM education courses for rural communities.

(b) RESEARCH AREAS.—The research areas eligible for funding under this subsection shall include—

(1) evaluating the learning and achievement of rural students in grades Pre-K through 12 in STEM subjects;

(2) understanding how computer-based and online professional development courses and mentor experiences can be integrated to meet the needs of educators of rural students in grades Pre-K through 12;

(3) combining computer-based and online STEM education and training with apprenticeships, mentoring, or other applied learning arrangements;

(4) leveraging online programs to supplement STEM studies for rural students that need physical and academic accommodation; and

(5) any other activity the Director determines will accomplish the goals of this subsection.

(c) EVALUATIONS.—All proposals for grants under this section shall include an evaluation plan that includes the use of outcome oriented measures to assess the impact and efficacy of the grant. Each recipient of a grant under this section shall include results from these evaluative activities in annual and final projects.

(d) ACCOUNTABILITY AND DISSEMINATION.—

(1) EVALUATION REQUIRED.—The Director shall evaluate the portfolio of grants awarded under this section. Such evaluation shall—

(A) use a common set of benchmarks and tools to assess the results of research conducted under such grants and identify best practices; and

(B) to the extent practicable, integrate findings from activities carried out pursuant to research conducted under this section, with respect to the pursuit of careers and degrees in STEM, with those activities carried out pursuant to other research on serving rural students and communities.

(2) REPORT ON EVALUATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the completion of the evaluation under paragraph (1), the Director shall submit to Congress and make widely available to the public a report that includes—

(A) the results of the evaluation; and

(B) any recommendations for administrative and legislative action that could optimize the effectiveness of the grants awarded under this section.

(e) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this section, the Director shall, for purposes of enhancing program effectiveness and avoiding duplication of activities, consult, cooperate, and coordinate with the programs and policies of other relevant Federal agencies.

SEC. 10. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the National Science Foundation established under section 2 of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861).

(2) FEDERAL LABORATORY.—The term “Federal laboratory” has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3703).

(3) FOUNDATION.—The term “Foundation” means the National Science Foundation established under section 2 of the National Science Foundation Act of 1950 (42 U.S.C. 1861).

(4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given such term in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

(5) STEM.—The term “STEM” has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 (42 U.S.C. 6621 note).

(6) STEM EDUCATION.—The term “STEM education” has the meaning given the term in section 2 of the STEM Education Act of 2015 (42 U.S.C. 6621 note).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) and the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oregon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 210, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 210, the Rural STEM Education Research Act. I thank Ranking Member LUCAS for introducing this important bill.

Every State in the country is filled with students who have an incredible curiosity for STEM and the potential to make important contributions in these fields. But too often, students are left behind and are unable to fulfill their vast potential simply because of where they live.

Students in rural areas have long faced obstacles to receiving a high-quality STEM education. Lack of broadband access, for example, has long been a barrier.

Schools in rural communities often struggle to access the equipment and facilities needed to provide students with hands-on STEM experiences. Research shows that hands-on experiences help inspire scientific curiosity and a love of STEM in students.

Teachers are trying their best, but they have limited resources and support. To make matters worse, the COVID-19 pandemic and the transition to remote learning have further exacerbated these inequalities.

Students and teachers in rural communities have worked hard to adapt, but they need help. We have an opportunity not just to recover from what was lost during the pandemic but to ensure a better STEM education future for rural students.

The Rural STEM Education Act provides for research and development to increase access to STEM education opportunities in rural schools and to pro-

vide teachers with the resources they need to teach more effectively.

The bill also directs NIST to develop a prize competition to advance research and development in support of expanded broadband access.

This bill further provides for assessments of Federal investments in rural STEM education to be conducted by the National Academies and the Government Accountability Office.

This bill is an important step toward improving STEM education in rural communities across America and will help build a 21st century STEM workforce that will help the U.S. remain a global leader in science and technology.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support H.R. 210, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 210, the Rural STEM Education Research Act, a bill that passed this House with resounding bipartisan support in the 116th Congress, and I hope it will do so again today.

I am pleased to be leading this important bill, and I thank Chairwoman JOHNSON for her support.

Now more than ever, America's prosperity and security depend on an effective and inclusive science, technology, engineering, math, and computer science workforce, or STEM.

Nationally, 80 percent of the fastest-growing occupations depend upon mastery of STEM skills, and the number of STEM jobs is growing three times faster than non-STEM jobs. Over the next decade, the STEM shortage is anticipated to reach 1 million positions, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

To succeed in this job market, our students need to be equipped with solid skills in science and engineering. Meeting this demand starts in the classroom.

Over 9 million students in the United States, nearly 20 percent of the total K-12 population, attend rural schools. In Oklahoma, that number is even higher; one-third of our students attend rural schools.

These students face a number of barriers to accessing high-quality STEM learning, including a shortage of trained science and math teachers, a lack of access to advanced STEM courses, and few local university and industry partners.

Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, we have seen further proof that rural students are at a disadvantage, given the unreliability or non-existent broadband access many struggle with while distance learning.

The Rural STEM Education Research Act supports research and development activities to improve our understanding of the challenges rural communities are facing, and it takes steps to address those challenges in providing and sustaining quality STEM education programs.

H.R. 210 helps develop better practices for accessing and using computer-based and online STEM education courses. It will help schools combine online STEM education with hands-on training and apprenticeships to give students both theoretical and practical understanding of math and science skills.

The bill will also take steps to address one of the key obstacles to rural STEM education, a lack of broadband access. Of the 21 million Americans who lack access to broadband, the majority live in rural areas. With the increase in online learning, we need to prioritize connectivity for all students.

This bill directs the National Institute of Standards and Technology to establish a prize competition to stimulate innovations in technologies to deploy broadband connectivity to underserved rural communities.

It also establishes a working group to set key research priorities for improving broadband access so rural communities can enjoy the same connectedness as the rest of the country.

This bill includes a number of provisions to help provide rural educators with the tools they need to be successful, both in the classroom and online. It supports opportunities for rural educators to enhance their own STEM education, such as training in computer science or research opportunities at Federal labs and universities. These experiences will provide rural educators with high-quality STEM skills they can take back to the classrooms and pass on to their students.

Lastly, the major focus of this bill is broadening the participation of rural students in STEM. One way we can do this is by emphasizing place-based learning, which gives students direct access to the STEM knowledge present in their communities and local environment.

Place-based learning connects students to the science that is right outside their doors, whether it is studying animal science with FFA, learning about local ecosystems out on the prairies and in forests, or developing the technological skills required to operate increasingly complex and computerized farm equipment. That direct experience engages students and helps them understand that STEM skills matter to everyone, not just scientists in a white lab coat.

Taken together, the measures in this bill will make great strides to improve rural STEM education. I believe rural areas represent one of the greatest, yet most underutilized, opportunities for talented students to enhance the United States' future STEM workforce.

I am pleased that this bill has been endorsed by a number of stakeholder groups: STEM Education Coalition, Afterschool Alliance, Battelle and STEM-X, National Science Teaching Association, American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education, American Chemical Society, American Geophysical Union, Human Factors and

Ergonomics Society, Association of American Universities, Microsoft, Girl Scouts of the USA, National FFA Organization, and Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.

I again thank Chairwoman JOHNSON and her staff for working with me on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly encourage my colleagues to vote "yes" to better STEM education for America's rural students, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee and the Committee on Education and Labor, I want to thank Mr. LUCAS for mentioning not only broadband but also place-based learning. I represent several rural school districts, and I appreciate this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MEIJER).

Mr. MEIJER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 210, the Rural STEM Education Research Act.

More than 9 million students in the U.S., nearly 20 percent of the K-12 population, attend rural schools. For reasons ranging from teacher quality to shortages of resources, these students often have fewer opportunities for high-quality STEM learning than their peers in urban and suburban schools.

Rural areas, including those in the Third District of Michigan, represent one of the greatest, yet underutilized, chances for STEM education to impact the workforce. It is especially important that we correct this in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic when we are facing serious research and development labor market shortages.

H.R. 210 would increase STEM education opportunities for rural communities, ensuring the option to learn is not dependent on your ZIP Code. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. FEENSTRA).

Mr. FEENSTRA. Mr. Speaker, in this era of scientific and technological innovation, it has never been more important to ensure our students have access to quality STEM education programs, especially in rural communities.

Implementing high-speed, reliable broadband goes hand in hand with this goal.

This is why I urge my colleagues to support the Rural STEM Education Research Act. Both STEM education and quality broadband access are critical to the future success and revitalization of rural America.

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I am hopeful that this legislation will break down barriers rural Iowans face

in receiving STEM education that is both forward-thinking and long-lasting for our rural communities. This bill will also help us identify the technological and logistical challenges we still must overcome to provide broadband to every last acre of land.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma, Ranking Member LUCAS, for this outstanding bill and important piece of legislation.

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I, once again, thank Chairwoman JOHNSON for her support of this legislation. Whether you live in Dallas, Texas, or Cheyenne, Oklahoma, every student should have the opportunity to gain STEM skills and to compete for the jobs of the future.

The Rural STEM Education Research Act gives teachers better tools to teach science and math, leverages local resources to engage students in key subjects, and addresses the lack of broadband access in rural communities. This important legislation passed the House with strong bipartisan support last Congress. I hope it will do so again today.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill today, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I once again thank Ranking Member LUCAS for his work on this legislation. I thank Chairwoman JOHNSON for supporting it, and I urge its adoption.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 210, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

SUPPORTING EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS ACT

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 144) to forestall the loss of research talent by establishing a temporary early career research fellowship program, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 144

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Supporting Early-Career Researchers Act".